

IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
FOR THE NORTHERN DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA

HECTOR SOLANO,

Plaintiff,

V.

K. FLORES, et al.,

Defendants.

No. C 15-05509 BLF (PR)

**ORDER OF SERVICE; DIRECTING
DEFENDANTS TO FILE
DISPOSITIVE MOTION OR NOTICE
REGARDING SUCH MOTION;
INSTRUCTIONS TO CLERK**

Plaintiff, a state prisoner currently incarcerated at Salinas Valley State Prison in Soledad, filed this *pro se* civil rights action pursuant to 42 U.S.C. § 1983 against SVSP officials. Plaintiff's motion for leave to proceed *in forma pauperis* will be addressed in a separate order.

DISCUSSION

A. Standard of Review

A federal court must conduct a preliminary screening in any case in which a prisoner seeks redress from a governmental entity or officer or employee of a governmental entity. *See* 28 U.S.C. § 1915A(a). In its review, the court must identify any cognizable claims and dismiss any claims that are frivolous, malicious, fail to state a claim upon which relief may be granted or seek monetary relief from a defendant who is

1 immune from such relief. *See id.* § 1915A(b)(1),(2). *Pro se* pleadings must, however, be
 2 liberally construed. *See Balistreri v. Pacifica Police Dep't*, 901 F.2d 696, 699 (9th Cir.
 3 1990).

4 To state a claim under 42 U.S.C. § 1983, a plaintiff must allege two essential
 5 elements: (1) that a right secured by the Constitution or laws of the United States was
 6 violated, and (2) that the alleged violation was committed by a person acting under the
 7 color of state law. *See West v. Atkins*, 487 U.S. 42, 48 (1988).

8 **B. Plaintiff's Claims**

9 Plaintiff claims that his rights to procedural due process was violated during a
 10 disciplinary hearing because the related Rules Violation Report was not served on him in
 11 a timely manner, his request to have a witness present at the hearing was denied, the
 12 hearing was not conducted in a timely manner, and the guilty finding was not supported
 13 by the preponderance of the evidence. (Compl. at 4-A.) Liberally construed, Plaintiff
 14 states a cognizable due process claim. *See Wolff v. McDonnell*, 418 U.S. 539, 556 (1974).

15

16 **CONCLUSION**

17 For the reasons stated above, the Court orders as follows:

18 1. The Clerk of the Court shall mail a Notice of Lawsuit and Request for
 19 Waiver of Service of Summons, two copies of the Waiver of Service of Summons, a copy
 20 of the complaint, all attachments thereto, and a copy of this order upon **Defendants**
 21 **Correctional Officer K. Flores, Lt. R. Downey Jr., Cpt. K. Allen, Lt. J. Spaulding,**
 22 **Sgt. B. McClellan, Officer V. Solis, and Correctional Officer R. Curry at Salinas**
 23 **Valley State Prison**, (P.O. Box 1050, Soledad, CA 93960). The Clerk shall also mail a
 24 copy of this Order to Plaintiff.

25 2. Defendants are cautioned that Rule 4 of the Federal Rules of Civil
 26 Procedure requires them to cooperate in saving unnecessary costs of service of the
 27 summons and the complaint. Pursuant to Rule 4, if Defendants, after being notified of
 28 this action and asked by the Court, on behalf of Plaintiff, to waive service of the

1 summons, fail to do so, they will be required to bear the cost of such service unless good
2 cause shown for their failure to sign and return the waiver form. If service is waived, this
3 action will proceed as if Defendants had been served on the date that the waiver is filed,
4 except that pursuant to Rule 12(a)(1)(B), Defendants will not be required to serve and file
5 an answer before **sixty (60) days** from the day on which the request for waiver was sent.
6 (This allows a longer time to respond than would be required if formal service of
7 summons is necessary.) Defendants are asked to read the statement set forth at the foot of
8 the waiver form that more completely describes the duties of the parties with regard to
9 waiver of service of the summons. If service is waived after the date provided in the
10 Notice but before Defendants have been personally served, the Answer shall be due **sixty**
11 (**60) days** from the date on which the request for waiver was sent or **twenty (20) days**
12 from the date the waiver form is filed, whichever is later.

13 3. No later than **ninety (90) days** from the date of this order, Defendants shall
14 file a motion for summary judgment or other dispositive motion with respect to the claims
15 in the complaint found to be cognizable above.

16 a. Any motion for summary judgment shall be supported by adequate
17 factual documentation and shall conform in all respects to Rule 56 of the Federal Rules of
18 Civil Procedure. Defendants are advised that summary judgment cannot be granted, nor
19 qualified immunity found, if material facts are in dispute. If any Defendant is of the
20 opinion that this case cannot be resolved by summary judgment, he shall so inform the
21 Court prior to the date the summary judgment motion is due.

22 b. **In the event Defendants file a motion for summary judgment, the**
23 **Ninth Circuit has held that Plaintiff must be concurrently provided the appropriate**
24 **warnings under *Rand v. Rowland*, 154 F.3d 952, 963 (9th Cir. 1998) (en banc). See**
25 ***Woods v. Carey*, 684 F.3d 934, 940 (9th Cir. 2012).**

26 4. Plaintiff's opposition to the dispositive motion shall be filed with the Court
27 and served on Defendants no later than **twenty-eight (28) days** from the date Defendants'
28 motion is filed.

1 Plaintiff is also advised to read Rule 56 of the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure
2 and *Celotex Corp. v. Catrett*, 477 U.S. 317 (1986) (holding party opposing summary
3 judgment must come forward with evidence showing triable issues of material fact on
4 every essential element of his claim). Plaintiff is cautioned that failure to file an
5 opposition to Defendants' motion for summary judgment may be deemed to be a consent
6 by Plaintiff to the granting of the motion, and granting of judgment against Plaintiff
7 without a trial. *See Ghazali v. Moran*, 46 F.3d 52, 53–54 (9th Cir. 1995) (per curiam);
8 *Brydges v. Lewis*, 18 F.3d 651, 653 (9th Cir. 1994).

9 5. Defendants *shall* file a reply brief no later than **fourteen (14) days** after
10 Plaintiff's opposition is filed.

11 6. The motion shall be deemed submitted as of the date the reply brief is due.
12 No hearing will be held on the motion unless the Court so orders at a later date.

13 7. All communications by the Plaintiff with the Court must be served on
14 Defendants, or Defendants' counsel once counsel has been designated, by mailing a true
15 copy of the document to Defendants or Defendants' counsel.

16 8. Discovery may be taken in accordance with the Federal Rules of Civil
17 Procedure. No further court order under Federal Rule of Civil Procedure 30(a)(2) or
18 Local Rule 16-1 is required before the parties may conduct discovery.

19 9. It is Plaintiff's responsibility to prosecute this case. Plaintiff must keep the
20 court informed of any change of address and must comply with the court's orders in a
21 timely fashion. Failure to do so may result in the dismissal of this action for failure to
22 prosecute pursuant to Federal Rule of Civil Procedure 41(b).

23 10. Extensions of time must be filed no later than the deadline sought to be
24 extended and must be accompanied by a showing of good cause.

25 **IT IS SO ORDERED.**

26 DATED: March 3, 2016


27 BETH LABSON FREEMAN
United States District Judge